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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIXTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

GILBERT N. HAUGEN, Iowa, *Chairman*.

JAMES C. McLAUGHLIN, Michigan.

CHARLES B. WARD, New York.

FRED S. PURNELL, Indiana.

EDWARD VOIGT, Wisconsin.

MELVIN O. McLAUGHLIN, Nebraska.

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JAMES B. ASWELL, Louisiana.

DAVID H. KINCHELOE, Kentucky.

MARVIN JONES, Texas.

PETER G. TEN EYCK, New York.

L. G. HAUGEN, *Clerk*.

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SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE—OCCUPATION OF MOUNT WEATHER.

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Friday, June 10, 1921.**

The committee met at 10 o'clock a. m., Hon. Gilbert N. Haugen (chairman) presiding.

There were present: Mr. Haugen, Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan, Mr. Purnell, Mr. McLaughlin of Nebraska, Mr. Tincher, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Gerner, Mr. Clague, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Jacoway, Mr. Aswell, Mr. Kincheloe, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Ten Eyck.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee has met this morning to give consideration to H. R. 5901. We will be pleased to hear from you, Mr. Bush-Brown.

STATEMENT OF MR. HENRY K. BUSH-BROWN, SCULPTOR, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The CHAIRMAN. Kindly give your full name, address, and occupation.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. My name is Henry K. Bush-Brown. I am a sculptor by profession, resident in the city of Washington.

I became interested in this matter by having been associated indirectly with the work in St. Elizabeths and having taught modeling there voluntarily and having come in contact with the soldiers and seeing their needs, and I was invited by Mrs. Boggs, who is here present, to go down and see Mount Weather, something like over a year ago, and I became very much interested in the possibility of having an industrial school and training station there. We had arrangements made last year with the Weather Bureau to use the property in that way under a lease which they were willing to grant to us, but the lawyers said it was unconstitutional and that it could not be done without an act of Congress, and that threw the whole thing up in the air and the difficulties surrounding the whole situation last year prevented our pursuing the thing any further until the new administration came in.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. You speak of an industrial school. Under what auspices and for what particular purpose; that is, to serve what particular class of men or women?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. For the purpose of rehabilitating the wounded soldiers after they are able to leave the hospital and before they are able to go out and wrestle with the world for their living in competition with well men.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Under what auspices?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Under the auspices of an organization that we have created, the Soldiers' Institute.

Mr. JONES. How is this institute supported?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Here [indicating] are some of our letterheads showing the board of trustees, etc.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Why not under the auspices of the veterans' bureau that we are promoting now by act of Congress for the care of the soldiers and for looking after their matters in all respects.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. That will come out, sir, in this argument which I am prepared to read as soon as we get at the issue.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. In your own time, if you will direct your attention to that question, I should like to hear you.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir. I have here the articles of incorporation and our by-laws, which I would like to file later. [Reading:]

PROSPECTUS FOR SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.

PREAMBLE.

When Gen. Grant was asked for his plans to resume specie payments he replied he had no "plans". The way to resume payments is to resume.

The injured soldiers are applying for hospital care and education faster than can be provided for them, and it is reported that 300,000, who do not need hospital care, are out of work. Therefore to supplement what the Government is doing the Soldiers' Institute has been organized for reconstruction, in which the students will be largely self supporting by tilling the soil and other manual work, for we hold it is fundamental that every one should know how to support himself by agriculture. This gives strength to the individual and the Nation. Therefore, it is proposed to have ample acreage and make the work highly educational.

The institute will provide for that interval between the hospital and full ability to wrestle with the world, and also provides for these on the verge of needing hospital care and who could be better restored in the Soldiers' Institute.

To meet these needs there will be a balance of occupation, let us say, four or five hours per day for physical work for the maintenance of the body, and the balance of working time for the product of the mind. A balanced occupation is as necessary for the satisfaction of the soul as a balanced ration is for the nourishment of the body.

This means the full circuit of vocations, including the art-crafts and fine arts. Therefore we will have all the arts from the tilling of the soil to the presentation of symphonies, and the sciences from the analysis of the soil to the measure of electric currents.

Our agricultural land will be in some instances adjacent to the city so as to make available the many advantages in education which the city offers, and thereby save duplication. This also will introduce a new art, that of city planning, for with such a plant its orderly development should be along the lines of suburban growth and thus ultimately because part of the city as may be needed in the extension of its streets and parks. This is very important as herein will come increased valuations and a result of the work applied to the land, and finally accrue to the perpetuation of the institute.

There will be many complete units, for instance, one might be the development of water power, another the development of a marble quarry, the quality of which would be suitable for building purposes and instruct such of the students who have an adaptability for working marble to be skilled artisans in this trade. Heretofore these artisans have all come from Europe, and we need to give our own men this opportunity. Then we will have our own soldiers quarrying the stone and cutting it into columns, architraves, and statues for the buildings and monuments that will be erected in Washington to the memory of their comrades who fell at the front. This will not only give occupation of a reconstructive character, but also give a spiritual vision of what it is to be an American, and what it is to live in the best country under the sun, and be a part of the best Government that has as yet been devised.

The salvation of man is work; the satisfaction of work in production; the flower of production is art; art is the handmaid of religion; and if we are to succeed as a nation we must make a religion of our liberties. These are the ideals for the Soldiers' Institute and the reason for the appeal for its support. It is doing a work that the people can do better for themselves than any government can do for them.

It is the very spirit of self-reliance without which the courage of the people dies. The way to resume prosperity is to resume—first, by giving work to the idle soldiers in public improvements that are contemplated in every town and city and which have been waiting for these times of peace. As soon as general prosperity has returned

the men will automatically leave the educational environments of the institute, which will have added to their powers of production, to apply these powers for their own advancement and the benefit of all.

ARGUMENT.

When one hears of the large appropriations for hospital care and rehabilitation of the soldiers one naturally asks why we need the Soldiers' Institute for the same purpose, therefore let us review what the Government is doing.

I. In the first place the appropriations can be applied only to the injured or disabled soldiers, and yet some of these who escaped harm do not want to return to the place they had before the war, for the service had given them a new and broader vision of life, but it does not always bring the opportunities which their ambition longs for. Therefore we hold that those who are not among the injured and are willing to work for their own advancement should be given an opportunity to do so in the Soldiers' Institute, so far as the money at its command will justify after the wounded soldiers have been provided for.

I would like to pause a moment to put into the record a letter from Sir Philip Gibbs, written from England and published in the Sunday edition of the Washington Herald of May 8, 1921, in which he lays great stress on the fact that the English soldiers do not want to return to the work that they had before the war. It probably gives one of the best definitions of their critical situation over there and the fundamental, underlying reasons for much of their discontent and their present strikes which are putting the English Empire in peril at the present moment. I mention that because the dissatisfaction of our own soldiers is not any different from the dissatisfaction of the soldiers of other countries along these same lines. [Reading:]

The high percentage of illiteracy and the lack of manual efficiency compelled the Government to create and assist many forms of education as a war measure, and the education provided in the Army and Navy has been an essential feature in national advancement.

It can not be too highly commended and supported. Some of the results of Army training and that of the Federal Board of Education are shown in the following tables of comparison of the wages earned before and since the war, both for wounded and the unwounded. (See Appendix II.)

We hold it is unanswerable that the good work established by the Government should be continued for a time after the discharge from the service for the men who want to work for their own better efficiency.

This the Government is not doing, and this the Soldiers' Institute proposes to do.

II. Life in the Army by its very nature substitutes obedience for self-reliance, and when added to this comes life in the hospital where everything is properly done for the patient, it is a hard period of adjustment to restore self-reliance. Therefore the Soldiers' Institute is a necessity to take care of that interval between the hospital discharge and the full ability to battle with the world.

This can be better done by an organization with this as one of the objects than by any institution managed by the Government for reasons that are inherent to the morals of the life itself, as will be apparent to every one who knows the conditions.

The soldier who has been wounded is looking to the Government to do everything for him and in this institution where the spirit of the life is work and service, he will be stimulated as he can not be stimulated under any Government-managed institution, because the very fact that he looks to the Government for all of the things that the Government ought to do for him relieves him of much of that stimulus and self-reliance that we are endeavoring to engender, whereas in this institution he will be thrown on his own responsibility and he will have to do his fair share of work for his physical maintenance up to the ability of his strength so as not to overwork him, and if he is not willing to do that, he is too ill to be in this place

and should go back into the hospital or he is too inefficient to spend time with, and then he can be thrown out into the world; in other words, this will give him his opportunity to try himself out and make good and find out whether he is morally inefficient or whether he has the stamina to be rehabilitated into a full effective man. [Reading:]

The appalling lack of physical development disclosed by the men drawn for service was a national disgrace and will be one of the elements carefully considered in the life of the institute.

III. Since environment plays an important part in recovery from illness we propose to locate in a beautiful and inspiring country near Washington, which will keep the institute in accord with the many Government activities dealing with the injured soldiers so as to cooperate with them in every way and obviate duplication of effort, to the end that each will supplement the other.

We are negotiating for an abandoned marble quarry which has never been a commercial asset to its owners, but which has great educational value to the Soldiers' Institute. It has white, pink, and green marbles. It would furnish the means of establishing many little industries and trades that would produce things of a market value, and we could furnish stone for building purposes of a memorial character.

I think I may pause there a moment to say that the plans for a memorial peace bell tower in Washington are well under way under the auspices of the Arts Club, which I helped to found, and in the course of this month the general Federation of Women's Clubs are going to indorse that at their meeting in Salt Lake City. They have a membership of two million and a half and they are going to cooperate with the Arts Club and form an organization to put up that bell tower in Washington, and it will add to their ability to raise that fund if it is known that the Soldiers' Institute have a marble quarry, is going to quarry the stone and cut it, and that the building will be largely put up by the work of the rehabilitated soldiers who are now in hospitals and needing occupation.

I have been testing some of that marble in my own studio in order to know its quality and it is very fine building stone and when the quarry is really developed it is very likely that we will find statuary marble in there. My piece was a rough piece that I picked up on the surface and it was not a real test of the quality of the marble. It is within 10 miles of Mount Weather and can be made easily supplementary to the work that would be done at Mount Weather, and would add to the interest of the life there. [Reading:]

To put up a memorial building entirely by contract to the lowest bidder deprives it of much of its spiritual significance, but to have it put up by the soldiers working out their own better proficiency in memory of all who served them at the front brings us to a kind of service which made Athens the center of Greek culture and inspired the people of the Middle Ages to erect their beautiful cathedrals.

IV. Our institute shall have a school of architecture, and one of its first problems will be to design a temple to liberty.

A location was chosen for such a temple when we were in the midst of the war in a little valley on the shoulder of Pikes Peak, Colo. It is a gem of a place, with a little spring of water. It probably is the highest spring water that flows down the Mississippi River, the "Father of Waters," and there 13,000 feet above the sea it is proposed to erect a shrine to liberty, designed and erected by the soldiers who served their country in this war as a heritage for the future, where for all time pilgrims may come and kneel down and drink the pure water of the fountain on the border of which will be inscribed, "He who drinks here dedicates himself to the cause of liberty and the brotherhood of man." This is what we mean by making a religion of our liberties. It means that government is not a mechanical thing, it has always failed as a military institution, it is not solely legal, but is a spiritual thing and depends on the consent of the governed, and, may we add, the intelligent cooperation of the governed. This is our kind of government, and it will be better understood by this kind of visual

expression of its meaning in a temple to liberty. If our institute attains this, it will have fully justified its existence.

V. We will soon mark the one hundred and fiftieth year of the Nation's existence; we are the oldest unchanged Government, and the spiritual leaders of the world. Our strength has been personal freedom and initiative. They make for success only in the hands of the wise; in the hands of the ignorant they lead to sedition; in the hands of the vicious they lead to anarchy. Therefore, the success of the future depends on the wisdom of every individual, consequently each individual's education is the concern of all, for the truth shall keep us free.

VI. During the 150 years our Nation has paid great attention to law and order as a safeguard to life and liberty, but we have not paid sufficient attention to the pursuit of happiness. It can be pursued to best advantage by cooperative action with due regard to every other person's right to the same pursuit, and as we propose to have a study of design in mosaic, we might in this way learn the value of each little stone in the picture and thus learn the relative value of each individual in the picture of our civilization.

Let us imagine 100,000,000 people really comprehending how important each is in the whole mosaic of life. Suppose we could round them all up in a huge picture extending from San Francisco to Maine, all dressed in yellow, brown, green, blue, and white, the purpose being to spell the word "happiness" on the whole country in letters 40 miles high, so the people of Mars could see us. The trouble is that, although we are all dressed in the proper colors of yellow, brown, green, and blue for the background and white for the letters, too many of us think he or she should be dressed in white, and we need only the great political artist to call us to our proper places. When the master mind comprehends and the people all understand, then we will spell the word, and then it will be each for all and all for each in this great mosaic of happiness.

A nation of happy people can safely defend themselves from without, and they are armor proof against boring from within with the augur of sedition, destructive discontent, and class antagonisms.

Discontent is the mainspring of life; all that we are we owe to it. For the want of a better term we may divide it into two parts, one benign and the other malignant. In the benign form it is the generator of progress, construction, and evolution; in the malignant form it begets riot, destruction, and revolution.

That all may have an equal chance in the pursuit of happiness and in finding his place in the great mosaic, there will be no examinations to exclude the service men from their institutes. There will be but two questions to ask, "What can you do to maintain yourself while here, and what do you wish to study in order to better your condition?"

Confident that the application of these principles will bring us to a better national life, we appeal for the necessary financial support.

Now, I suppose you are all aware that last year they appointed the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of Agriculture as a commission to report on this very property at Mount Weather, to see if it could be used under any Government functions for the rehabilitation of the soldiers as a Government function, and their report has been published here in this report of December 20.

Mr. JONES. Do they recommend that it be turned over to this institute?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No, sir; this institute did not exist at that time.

Mr. JONES. When was this institute organized?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. It was organized on April 21, I think.

Mr. JONES. How is it supported—by contributions?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. JONES. What funds has it available for its own use?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. It has not asked for any contributions at present. We were first desiring to obtain recognition from the Government and a plan of cooperation, so that we might have the right to ask for contributions. This can be successful only by the cooperation of the Government officials who are dealing with these problems,

and therefore we have had this bill introduced as a means of attaining that, sir.

Mr. JONES. What assurance would the Government have that its properties would be taken care of? I notice that you provide for motor trucks and a lot of other things that are to be turned over under the provisions of this bill. What assurance would the Government have of the protection of that property if this is an institution that had no funds.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We shall have funds, sir.

Mr. JONES. You hope to have funds, but you have not arranged for that.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. There is no question about our getting funds for such a purpose as this. There is no question about that because the people are going to see to it, some of them, that their soldiers are properly provided for.

Mr. JONES. I understand that, and a great many appropriations have been made by Congress and additional ones will be made.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. JONES. Of course, I am asking these questions simply for information.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir; I am glad to have you ask them.

Mr. TINCHER. Are you incorporated?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. TINCHER. Under the laws of what State?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. The District of Columbia, sir.

Mr. TINCHER. Have you a charter?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. The incorporation papers we have just put on file here, sir.

Mr. TINCHER. It is a private corporation?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. It is a private corporation in the sense that a hospital is a private corporation. It is not for the purpose of gain. There is no profit to come from it, sir.

Mr. TINCHER. I did not mean to say that there was, but it is a private corporation and the names of the officers are on this letterhead that you have presented here.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. TINCHER. Have you a copy of your constitution?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes; we have copies here. They were handed to the committee before you came in, sir.

Mr. TINCHER. I wonder if there are a good many organizations of this kind and character in the United States.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I think not, sir. This is the only one that is organized on this basis, and we are obtaining the cooperation of the various patriotic societies and the various military organizations by having them members of our board of advice. You see there are a few printed on that page, but many others have been obtained since that was printed, so that this will be a centralization of all the desire and effort on the part of the people through their organizations to help along the Government in the rehabilitation of the soldiers.

Mr. TINCHER. Was the constitution read?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No; it was not read. I would be glad to read it.

Mr. TINCHER. I should like to see it.

Mr. JONES. Is it planned to organize branch institutes in various parts of the country or just have the one?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We propose to have this for the District of Columbia and if it can be well and successfully done others will be formulated in several parts of the country as may be needed under cooperation with the original organization.

Mr. TEN EYCK. Does this take care of any ex-service man who wants to apply for entrance—can he be admitted?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. If we have the funds to take care of him.

Mr. TEN EYCK. In other words, you do not discriminate in any way between the man who has been wounded and one who has not.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. The wounded men have the preference. My experience in school-garden work is that the best results were obtained by working the children in pairs, each had their plot and a certain allotment of work to do, and I think it would be the plan of the Soldiers' Institute to have a well man work with an ill man who is being rehabilitated, working in pairs. The well man would carry the heavy load and he would be the constant companion of the fellow who was in process of being brought back to normal condition, physically or mentally.

Mr. TEN EYCK. Would you accept a man who could not work at all?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No, sir.

Mr. TEN EYCK. That is, a man who is disabled?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No, sir; that is a hospital case. Our purpose is to take them when they are able to be discharged from the hospital but not able yet to go out and do a full day's work.

Mr. TEN EYCK. If they are not able to work at all and are discharged from the hospital, would you take them?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir. I take it that through our varied industries he can find something to do. The man might not be able to do heavy manual labor, but he could raise guinea pigs or chickens or follow designs of some artistic nature; he might be able to play the violin or the flute or something that would contribute to the welfare of the group.

Mr. TEN EYCK. In my work in behalf of the soldier at different times, in legislation and otherwise, I have found a lot of men who have been discharged from the hospital who were not able to do any work at all, not even bookkeeping or desk work. Would you accept that class of man?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I think very likely we might. As it is a delightful place to live, it might be that we could take a certain number of those men who merely needed a quiet home, but it was not our purpose to make it an old soldiers' home.

Mr. TEN EYCK. He would not be given any preference over the others?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. That would depend upon each case. I do not think that we could make a general rule of that kind, but the general purpose is to have a home that will give happiness to the soldiers while they are in the process of rehabilitation. If in doing that there is a certain class coming in who merely by their presence might be the best men to have in a home, I think that it would be advisable to accept them, do you not?

Mr. TEN EYCK. I should think so. In other words, being interested in the soldiers, I should like to see anything done that would be of benefit to them.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. In other words, we propose to establish such a delightful home that they will want to stay there in preference to going back to any hospital that the Government is running. We are going to develop a fine home, we are going to have our own entertainment, we are going to have all the beauties of life developed in that beautiful country. Have you been to Mount Weather?

Mr. TEN Eyck. No; I have not been there.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I think it would be quite proper for this committee either as a whole or as a subcommittee to go down and see that property.

Mr. CLAGUE. Where is it located?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. At Bluemont, at the end of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad, about 55 miles from Washington, on the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and looking west there is the Shenandoah Valley and looking east there is the Piedmont Valley. It is one of the most beautiful and inspiring places.

Mr. JONES. Is it the purpose of your institute to use this particular property only?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No; it is our purpose, as set forth in this supplemental paper, that we should buy adjacent property. I think, perhaps, it would be well for me to read this additional sheet, Mr. Chairman, with your permission.

The CHAIRMAN. Certainly.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN (reading):

PLANS FOR ACQUIRING LAND FOR THE SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.

It is estimated by a competent physician that the buildings at Mount Weather could accommodate 200 patients if advantage is taken of all the buildings.

It is the purpose of the directors of the Soldiers' Institute to make such repairs and alterations as may be immediately necessary and to supplement by the use of tents during the summer and thus increase the immediate availability.

It is also the plan to buy adjacent property on which to erect our own buildings and to buy six or seven hundred acres of farm land at the base of the mountain on which to establish our agricultural base.

The marble quarry referred to in the prospectus is only 10 miles away for which we have begun negotiations and there is every prospect of concluding the purchase as soon as title can be perfected.

These three properties aggregate 1,000 acres exclusive of the 87 acres of the Weather Bureau land at Mount Weather, and will be quite sufficient with which to carry out our proposed work.

How many men can have educative employment on the farm and in all the industries pertaining to it and the development of the marble industry is only a matter of conjecture and should be built up only in proportion to the demand for the product. With good business management it should be a constantly increasing business of a permanent character,

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. What funds has the institute now?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We have none. We have never asked for any. We wanted to have this meeting here and to establish a spirit of cooperation with what the Government is doing and to have the use of this Weather Bureau property as the home.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Your institute intends to have some funds?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We intend to have funds of our own.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. You intend to acquire some place, whether you get this place or not?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. How do you expect to acquire it?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We expect to acquire it by the donations of people who want this plan carried out.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. What is your plan of raising money?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Through the various patriotic organizations and individual donations to memorials, funds that would be donated in memory of those who have fallen at the front.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Have you laid out your plans for getting the money?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir, we have laid out our plans; but we have not put them into effect. We wanted, first, to establish our relations with the Government and what they are doing, so that we might have a status that would be recognized by those who are doing this work and not be subjected to the inquiry as to why we were in existence at all.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. You speak of cooperation with the Government. What kind of cooperation do you expect or would you like?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We should like to have the cooperation of the hospital people and the Federal Vocational Board.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. In what way?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. In sending to our institution those individuals who have proven their proficiency along the line of work that we are doing. For instance, there are in New York and Chicago art schools under the direction of the Federal Vocational Board. This is to be a school in which the fine arts will largely predominate, and it would be quite natural that those young men who want to follow the fine arts would want to find a place in which we make the fine arts an essential feature.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Will you expect contributions of money by Congress?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We may or may not, sir. I do not know whether we should appeal to Congress for this institute. Congress is doing for the other institutions, and it might be willing to do for this.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Have you made any kind of a canvass to determine how much money you would be able to raise in the way you first indicated, by an appeal to the patriotic organizations?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We have not made a canvass of it, but we have some idea that we can raise \$500,000 in that way when we are ready for it.

Mr. JONES. Is it planned to make a nation-wide canvass?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I think so.

Mr. JONES. What arrangement have you made with reference to getting soldiers from other parts of the country? Will you just take the soldiers that come to your institution and present themselves or will the institute be open to soldiers from other parts of the country?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. They will come from the Vocational Board for Education and the hospitals.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. I have gathered from what you said that you expected they would be assigned to your school?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I did not mean assigned in a compulsory sense, of course.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. No; perhaps not, but you would look to the vocational board for your supply of students, or whatever you might call them?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. The vocational board and from the hospitals; yes, sir. I can assure you of the need of it.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Has it occurred to you that it would be advisable to go on with your work of raising money so that the Government might have some assurance that you would be able to contribute some money, and if there is a responsibility resting on the Government now or later to contribute money we might have some idea of the measure of that responsibility?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir. We might proceed in that way, but we chose the other way, perhaps unwisely; I do not know. It is a matter of good judgment or ill judgment.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. It might appear to some after this institute was started and a large number of young men had been taken in for education and training that the responsibility would be on the Government to maintain the institute, regardless of the cost to the Government?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. The Government is maintaining a good bit of educational functions already, regardless of cost, is it not?

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Yes. The Government has appropriated a good many million dollars. There is a good deal of complaint that the Government has not been doing for its deserving soldiers, those who need help, as much as should have been done, but those who have been here know that the Congress has never refused money at the request of any board having to do with rehabilitating the soldiers. A million was asked, it was given; another million was asked, and it was given; more millions were asked and given. Yet there is fault found in this country as to those who have administered the affairs, those to whom the money was intrusted. The Government has done everything possible in the way of giving money and is ready now to give all kinds of money. I do not know whether it will be willing to cooperate with a private cooperation and assume responsibilities that would be incurred and dictated by a private corporation.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I have a suggestion to make to the bill in that respect, Mr. McLaughlin. I talked with Mr. Lamkin yesterday concerning this matter, and since my conference with him it has occurred to me that perhaps this clause ought to be in the bill, and it would cover just the point you wish to make here. To insert after the words:

That the Secretary of Agriculture be, and he is hereby, directed, under such regulations as he may prescribe, to permit the Soldiers' Institute (Incorporated) to occupy and use the Government property at Bluemont, Loudoun County, Virginia, known as Mount Weather, in connection with its work for the care, education, and rehabilitation of the soldiers, sailors, and marines of the late war, such occupation and use to be—

The words:

Under the supervision of the Director of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, and during such occupation he shall be chairman of the trustees of the Soldiers' Institute.

That might be inserted there.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. You think that would be a good insertion?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I am only offering that as a suggestion to meet the very difficulty suggested.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. With that insertion, would there be any responsibility on the part of the Government to pay the expense?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I do not imply that. The question is getting this thing done in the best way. Whether the Government appropriates money, as they might well do, or whether they prefer to leave it for private initiative, as they might well do, that is for later decision. I am not here to advocate either side.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. My personal impression is that the personnel of this committee would be in sympathy with your idea or with the idea of teaching and training and in every proper way helping the soldiers that you could help.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. But when the Government enters upon a proposition of this kind there ought to be some idea of the extent of its responsibility in money and otherwise. Your institute is organized. It has not any money. It has not made any effort to get any money. It has not formulated any plan for getting money. You are not able to tell the committee at this time how much you will be able to get. It seems to me if you insert what you have read, that this is to be under the direction of the Director of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, that the Government is assuming some kind of a responsibility, and if it sends its men there incurring some kind of responsibility, and if there is not money, the Treasury will be called upon to furnish it. It might be a very proper use of the money and Congress might be willing to do it, but we should know what responsibility rests on Congress and have some idea of how much money would be needed. You speak of cooperation. There is no proper cooperation when one furnishes all the money and the other uses it.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No, sir.

Mr. TINCHER. Suppose we should pass a resolution turning this property, now in the hands of the Agricultural Department, over to the Board for Vocational Education, if they want it—I understand that they have a thousand soldiers now—and let them do the cooperating, if it is necessary?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I should be very glad to have it done that way. The thing is to be accomplished; that is my point. The action has got to be arrived at. This is a form of rehabilitation that has not yet been undertaken, and I believe that it is worth while.

Mr. TINCHER. It comes pretty close to the same form that the Government has undertaken?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir; pretty close to it.

Mr. ASWELL. Why not turn it over to the Federal Board without any cooperation and have no private corporation, let the board run it?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I would be quite content.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Have you ever talked to the members of the board about this matter?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I talked with Mr. Lamkin yesterday.

Mr. ASWELL. Does he want it?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Lamkin is here and can answer that question.

Mr. TEN EYCK. You have not contemplated in any way charging these soldiers for any service extended to them?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. My thought has been that they would be charged for their keep a certain amount, 50 cents a day or whatever the actual amount of their keep might reasonably be under military service, and that then they should work a certain number of hours for their maintenance, which they would agree to. If they earn more money they should have an opportunity to put it in the bank and create a fund, so that when they went out of this institute they would have it to live on.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Is there anything proposed here that is different from what the Federal Board has already done?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. It is not so much any difference in the training itself as the difference in the morale of the place. The Federal Board has a great many agencies, but they have not brought together under one head all of the things that we are proposing to do here at this particular place.

Mr. KINCHELOE. How does the morale differ from the Federal Board?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. In this way: When the soldier is under Government management he sits down and lets the Government do all the work; he does not want to do anything, because he feels that the Government owes it to him. Here will be an institution where the Government's connection is so slight that the influence of the Government management is not manifest and where he is put on his own responsibility to work out his own salvation. You did not hear my written statement?

Mr. KINCHELOE. No, sir. Do you think that many soldiers would go down there where they would have to work when they could go somewhere else where it is optional with the soldier—do you think many soldiers would go down there under those regulations?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. It is part-time work only as a means of attaining a better education, sir. It is an educational institution and not a workhouse.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Do you think many soldiers would accept that?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I think that they would be very glad of the opportunity; they are asking for it all the time.

Mr. TEN EYCK. Has the Legion indorsed this proposition?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. They appointed a gentleman on our board of advice, but he could not accept and I had a letter from Col. Galbraith only a few days ago saying that he would appoint some one else, but now since his death —

Mr. TEN EYCK (interposing). Have they indorsed it?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I can assure you, gentlemen, that in a sense they are ready to cooperate with a movement of this kind.

Mr. JONES. Have any Government officers passed upon the advisability of this measure?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No, sir.

Mr. ASWELL. Would it be under Government control; is that your idea?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Cooperation under Government supervision, if you see fit. Our original idea was that it should not be under governmental control, that that would have a better stimulating effect on the soldier.

Mr. TEN EYCK. Then, why should the Government put up the money?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. We are not asking the Government to put up any money, we are asking for the use of Government property that is abandoned and not used.

Mr. PURNELL. The Government is vitally interested, of course, in knowing who is to take care of the property.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Certainly.

Mr. PURNELL. You have stated that you wanted to establish a definite status?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir. The definite status would be established by putting this property at our disposal.

Mr. PURNELL. By the Government turning over the property to a corporation which would guarantee the upkeep. It seems to me from what little I have heard of your testimony, that the proper way to establish the status would be to create a more perfect organization with some funds.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. PURNELL. In order that the Government might be assured, if they desired to enter on this plan, that there would be responsibility there to take care of the property.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. PURNELL. That is just my individual judgment.

Mr. KINCHELOE. You say that your organization has not consulted with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of War, or either one?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I have had a talk with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Federal Board.

Mr. KINCHELOE. What does he say?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. That he will take it under consideration. He wants to go down and see the property. That is just what I am asking this committee to do.

(The papers submitted by Mr. Bush-Brown follow:)

APPENDIX I.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

Know all men by these presents that we, the undersigned, all citizens of the United States and a majority of whom are residents of the District of Columbia do hereby, under and pursuant to the provisions of the incorporation laws of the District of Columbia, as provided in subchapter 3 of Chapter XVIII of the Code of Laws for the District of Columbia, associate ourselves together as a body corporate and hereby certify:

1. The corporate name of this corporation shall be the "Soldiers' Institute."
2. The objects for which this corporation is formed are to establish and maintain a school of arts and sciences in the District of Columbia and vicinity, for the purpose of teaching industrial and mechanical arts, the crafts and fine arts, and the tilling of the soil.
3. The term of existence of this corporation shall be perpetual.
4. The number of trustees who shall manage the concerns of this corporation for the first year and until their successors are elected shall be 12 and their names and residences are as follows: Wendell P. Stafford, Harvey W. Wiley, William S. Culbertson, Jerome F. Barnard, Frederick P. H. Siddons, Mrs. J. H. Boggs, Miss Byrd Mock,

18 SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE—OCCUPATION OF MOUNT WEATHER.

Mrs. D. B. Calhoun, Charles F. Nesbit, William B. Westlake, William J. Marshall, and Henry K. Bush-Brown, all of Washington, D. C.

5. The place in the District of Columbia in which the operations of this corporation are to be carried on is 1729 G Street NW., and the principal office of this corporation shall be at No. 1729 G Street NW., in the city of Washington, D. C.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto affixed our signatures and seals this 19th day of April, 1921.

H. K. BUSH-BROWN.
Mrs. J. H. BOGGS.
WENDELL P. STAFFORD.
JEROME F. BARNARD.
FREDERICK P. H. SIDMONS.
HARVEY W. WILEY.

WILLIAM B. WESTLAKE.
D. B. CALHOUN.
WILLIAM S. CULBERTSON.
BYRD MOCK.
W. J. MARSHALL.
CHARLES F. NESBIT.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

I, Francis L. Newbeck, notary public in and for the District aforesaid, do hereby certify that Wendell P. Stafford, Harvey Wiley, William S. Culbertson, Jerome F. Barnard, Frederick P. H. Siddons, Mrs. J. H. Boggs, Miss Byrd Mock, Mrs. D. B. Calhoun, Charles F. Nesbit, William B. Westlake, and William J. Marshall, being personally known to me to be the persons who made and signed the said certificate, and severally acknowledged the same to be their act and deed for the purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and seal this 19th day of April, 1921.

FRANCIS L. NEWBECK, *Notary Public.*

SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.

Board of trustees.—President, Hon. Wendell Phillips Stafford, Supreme Court of the District, Washington, D. C.; vice president, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, food expert, Woodward Building, Washington, D. C.; second vice president, Hon. William S. Culbertson, United States Tariff Commission, Washington, D. C.; secretary, Frederick P. H. Siddons, American Security & Trust Co., Washington, D. C.; treasurer, Jerome F. Barnard, American Security & Trust Co., Washington, D. C.; Miss Byrd Mock, American Women's Legion, 21 First Street NE., Washington, D. C.; W. B. Westlake, president, Citizens' Association, 728 Fifteenth Street NW., Washington, D. C.; William J. Marshall, Chicago, Ill., Charles F. Nesbit, Wilkins Building, Washington, D. C.; H. K. Bush-Brown, 1726 G Street NW., Washington, D. C.; Mrs. J. H. Boggs, The Rockingham, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Clarence C. Calhoun, 1519 New Hampshire Avenue NW., Washington, D. C.

Advisory council.—John Joy Edson, chairman, Washington Loan & Trust Co., Washington, D. C.; Robert N. Harper, vice chairman, District National Bank, Washington, D. C.; James A. Preston, Sons of American Revolution; Mrs. G. M. Minor, Daughters of American Revolution.

BY-LAWS OF THE SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.

ARTICLE I.—*Name and purpose.*

SECTION 1. The name of the organization shall be the "Soldiers' Institute."

SEC. 2. The purpose is to cooperate with the Government in the care and education of the injured soldiers and to give them educative employment and aid in finding permanent positions when able to fill them; to give the same opportunities for education and employment to soldiers, sailors, and marines who have been discharged from the service.

ARTICLE II.—*Meetings and fiscal year.*

SECTION 1. The regular meetings of the board of trustees shall be held on the second Monday of each month, except July and August. When said Monday is a legal holiday, the meetings appointed for that date shall be held on the next following business day.

SEC. 2. The annual meeting of the board of trustees shall be held on the second Monday of April of each year.

SEC. 3. Eight members of the board of trustees shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 4. Special meetings shall be called by the secretary on the direction of the president or on written request of four members of the board of trustees.

SEC. 5. The advisory council shall meet once a year, at least one month before the annual meeting of the board of trustees, and shall submit in writing its recommendations.

SEC. 6. The president of the board of trustees or the chairman of the advisory council may call special meetings of the council.

SEC. 7. The fiscal year shall begin on January 1.

ARTICLE III.—*Board of trustees, advisory council, and officers.*

SECTION 1. The board of trustees shall consist of not less than 12 nor more than 15 and shall from their number elect a president, two vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer, who shall serve for a period of one year and until their successors shall have been elected, and they shall perform the duties hereinafter set forth.

SEC. 2. There shall be an executive committee of the board of trustees consisting of the president or, in his absence, a vice president, the secretary, the treasurer, and one member of the board of trustees designated by the board, who shall exercise such powers as the board of trustees shall see fit to delegate.

SEC. 3. The president shall preside at all meetings of the board of trustees; he shall appoint all committees for whose appointment provision is not otherwise made; he shall be ex-officio a member of all committees.

SEC. 4. *Vice president.*—In the absence of the president his duties shall be performed by the senior vice president present. In the absence of the president and vice presidents, the board of trustees may elect a president pro tempore.

SEC. 5. *Secretary.*—The secretary shall perform all duties pertaining to this office and shall keep on file all reports and recommendations submitted to the board of trustees.

SEC. 6. *Treasurer.*—The treasurer shall deposit all moneys and keep all deeds and certificates of assets with the American Security & Trust Co., of Washington, D. C. He shall have charge of the books and accounts of the institute. His books shall be accessible to the board of trustees; he shall make a report to the board at every regular meeting. He shall make payments on vouchers signed by the field manager and his checks shall be countersigned by the secretary. He shall be required to furnish bond for the faithful performance of his duties in the amount to be decided by the board of trustees.

SEC. 7. There shall be a financial director appointed by the board of trustees whose duties shall be, subject to the approval of said board, the general promotion and financing of the institute. He shall from time to time submit in writing plans of operation and make to the board an annual report. The board of trustees may call for any special report.

SEC. 8. There shall be a field manager of the institute appointed by the board of trustees, who shall have general charge of the activities of the institute and, with the approval of the board, shall appoint all instructors and other employees. He shall from time to time submit written plans of operation to the board of trustees and when approved by the board they shall be put into effect. He shall make monthly reports in writing to the board and any special reports that the board may call upon him to submit.

SEC. 9. There shall be a committee on promotion consisting of at least seven persons whose duty it will be to make and promote plans for the benefit of the institute. Reports in writing by said committee shall be made at each regular meeting of the board of trustees.

SEC. 10. There shall be an advisory council consisting of 15 or more persons who shall be designated annually by the board of trustees and whose duties shall be those of an advisory or consultative character to the board of trustees.

SEC. 11. The salaries of all officers and employees shall be fixed by the board of trustees.

ARTICLE IV.—*Amendments.*

SECTION 1. Amendments to these by-laws may be made at a regular meeting of the board of trustees or at any special meeting if copies of the proposed amendment are sent to the board of trustees at least 10 days before such special meeting.

SEC. 2. An affirmative vote of all members of the board of trustees present at such meeting shall be requisite for the adoption of any amendment.

APPENDIX II.

FEDERAL BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION,
Washington, D. C., March 26, 1921.

Mr. HENRY K. BUSH-BROWN,
Arts Club of Washington, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. BUSH-BROWN: I am attaching hereto some figures I spoke to you about when you were in my office the other day. I think these are extremely interesting. You understand, of course, that they do not in any manner represent the total of rehabilitated cases but are fairly representative so far as results go.

Very truly, yours,

R. T. FISHER,
Assistant Director for Vocational Rehabilitation.

Partial list of rehabilitated cases—Placement and average salary.

Placement.	Number of trainees.	Average prewar salary.	Average salary after rehabilitation.	Placement.	Number of trainees.	Average prewar salary.	Average salary after rehabilitation.
Agriculturists.....	117	\$1,005.08	\$1,407.14	Telegraph operators	40	796.00	1,394.59
Poultry raisers.....	15	925.00	1,240.00	Advertisers.....	77	1,055.32	1,414.92
Linotype operators.....	27	904.76	1,337.03	Salesmen.....	104	1,095.45	1,449.43
Electricians.....	41	985.71	1,432.43	Bookkeepers.....	203	834.35	1,307.22
Stationary engineers.....	64	1,145.45	1,459.02	Authors.....	3	1,200.00	3,000.00
Machinists.....	47	954.54	1,413.95	Dentists.....	11	1,143.00	1,691.43
Automechanics.....	274	1,010.17	1,374.21	Teachers.....	9	1,100.00	1,650.00
Acetylene welders.....	90	994.00	1,292.19	Dental mechanics..	4	550.00	2,075.00
Navigators.....	16	940.00	1,807.69	Draftsmen.....	26	1,013.33	1,608.33

	Navy yards.		Atlanta, Ga.	Detroit, and Cleveland.	Baltimore, Md
	Mechanic.	Foreman.			
Automechanics:					
General.....				1 336	
Assemblers.....				1 32	
Testers.....				1 35	
Autoelectricians:					
Testers.....				1 40	\$2,081
Bench.....				1 37	
Autoupholsters and trimmers.....					2,244
Autopainters.....				1 50	2,244
Autospare parts men.....				1 30	
Carpenters, body work.....				1 39	
Auto sheet metal workers.....				1 39	
Welders:					
Acetylene.....	\$1,958	\$2,839		1 33	
Electric.....	2,008	2,889			
Machinists:					
Toolmakers.....	2,105	2,986	\$2,203	1 45	2,193
Bench, floor, or operator.....	1,836		1,836-1,985		1,836-1,958
All round.....	1,958	2,839	2,478		1,958
Electricians:					
Outside.....	1,958				2,244
Inside.....	1,958		2,019		2,244
Factory.....	1,958	2,839			
Storage-battery.....	2,105	2,545			1 1,530
Blacksmiths, general.....	2,350	3,231	2,542		
Carpenters.....	1,958	2,839			
Joiners.....	1,958				
Wheelwrights.....	1,615	2,055			
Sheet metal workers.....	1,958	2,839	1,958		2,019
Upholsterers.....	1,664	2,080			
Painters.....	2,105	2,986	2,244		2,019
Pattern makers.....	2,105	2,986	2,296		2,448

¹ Minimum.

Daily rates extended to year of 306 working days. Foremen average approximately 15 per cent higher. Approximately 70 per cent work 8-hour day.

Partial list of rehabilitated cases—Placement and average salary—Continued.

	Dallas, Tex.	Houston, Tex.	San Francisco, Calif.	Boston, Mass.	U. S. Army.
Automechanics:					
General.....				\$2, 203	\$1, 800-2, 100
Testers.....			¹ \$2, 142		2, 100
Autoelectricians:					
Testers.....			¹ 2, 295		
Bench.....			2, 550-3, 006		1, 500-1, 800
Automachinists.....			¹ 2, 244	2, 203	1, 800-2, 100
Autoupholsters and trimmers.....					2, 350
Autopainters.....			3, 060		
Autospare parts men.....					2, 500
Carpenters, body work.....					1, 800-2, 300
Machinists:					
Bench, floor, or operator.....	\$1, 958	\$1, 774-2, 371	1, 570-2, 019		1, 800-2, 100
All round.....	1, 958	2, 371	2, 244	2, 203	
Electricians:					
Outside.....	2, 244	2, 244	2, 244		
Inside.....	2, 244	2, 244			
Storage-battery.....					1, 500-1, 800
Blacksmiths, general.....			2, 019		
Carpenters.....			2, 244	2, 448	
Joiners.....				2, 019	
Sheet metal workers.....	2, 244	2, 244	3, 006	2, 443	
Painters.....	2, 244	2, 244	3, 006		
Patternmakers.....	2, 141	2, 142	2, 244		

¹ Minimum.

The CHAIRMAN. We have with us a number of representatives of the Government here, and we will now hear Mr. Lamkin.

STATEMENT OF MR. UEL W. LAMKIN, DIRECTOR FEDERAL BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

MR. LAMKIN. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I should like to have it distinctly understood that I am here because you asked me to appear.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

MR. LAMKIN. Mr. Bush Brown came to see me again yesterday.

The CHAIRMAN. How much time do you desire, Mr. Lamkin?

MR. LAMKIN. I will try to be as brief as I can, but when you get into the matter of training soldiers there are a great many questions that probably will occur to you.

There are two things that I think the American Congress expects of its administrative officers in carrying out the work of the rehabilitation of disabled men. The first is that the work shall be done and done right, and the second is that it shall be as economically administered as possible. In the first place, the board believes that the work can best be done by using existing agencies.

MR. JACOWAY. There are members of the committee who may not know who the witness is. He gave his card to the stenographer.

MR. LAMKIN. My name is Uel W. Lamkin, and I am the Director of the Federal Board for Vocational Education.

MR. JACOWAY. I understand.

MR. LAMKIN. We are using, so far as possible, existing agencies. When existing agencies can not give the necessary training, we are willing to make a contract with any agency which may be organized for the purpose of doing it. If an agency does not exist and if we can not make a contract with a private agency to do the work, we will undertake to establish an institution ourselves and to maintain

it and give the training in Government owned and controlled institutions. As far as this immediate proposition is concerned, we have had it up before us for over a year.

The CHAIRMAN. You have been over the property?

Mr. LAMKIN. Our representative has been over the property. This is true, there is no department of the Government that has authority to transfer to the Vocational Board Government-owned property. In other words, the Department of Agriculture can not transfer this property to the Federal Board. I have made this statement to a dozen other committees of the House, and I should like to make it again to the Committee on Agriculture, because I want Congress to understand the situation. Within the next 30 days, for instance, the War Department will declare as surplus a million dollars' worth of property that can be used in the vocational schools. The War Department can not transfer that to us. We, being a governmental board, can not go into the market and bid on it. We have got to go into the outside market—while the War Department is selling their stuff on the outside market—and secure bids from private concerns to furnish us with material which the Government now owns, and which is being put on the market as surplus property.

Mr. KINCHELOE. By an act of Congress that property could be turned over to you?

Mr. LAMKIN. Yes, sir. We have presented it for more than a year.

Mr. KINCHELOE. There has to be legislation along that line authorizing the department to turn it over to you?

Mr. LAMKIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. KINCHELOE. What is the objection?

Mr. LAMKIN. There seems to be no objection, except that we have not been able to get the desired action. The matter is now before the President for an executive order, authorizing it to be done.

Mr. KINCHELOE. I think, personally, that it is a crime that it is not done. That stuff will be sacrificed and you fellows must go in and pay one hundred cents on the dollar?

Mr. LAMKIN. We have to do it.

The CHAIRMAN. The property is desired by you?

Mr. LAMKIN. It is. We have gone to the warehouse where the War Department has the stuff and we have attached tags to it and they will turn it over to us when authority is given. The War Department is holding it rather than putting it on the market.

Mr. ASWELL. In your opinion, has the President the authority to authorize it?

Mr. LAMKIN. I do not know. I am officially advised that the President has it up with the Attorney General, but I do not know.

Mr. KINCHELOE. What committee of Congress would have jurisdiction of the matter?

Mr. LAMKIN. The Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. KINCHELOE. This surplus stuff which will be sold by the War Department will not bring 10 cents on the dollar, the very stuff which you need to help the boys, and you will have to go into the open market and pay 100 cents on the dollar. It is a crime on the taxpayers of the country.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. When will be the sale?

Mr. LAMKIN. Some time in the next 30 days. We can not wait. You are putting it up to this board to get the work done, and if we can not get the stuff from the Government departments we are going into the open market and buy it.

Mr. GERNERD. This is the first time I have heard of it.

Mr. LAMKIN. I understand. It has been before the Military Affairs Committee of both the House and Senate.

Mr. PURNELL. How much more will it cost you, approximately, if you have to go into the open market and purchase this material?

Mr. LAMKIN. Three or four times as much. I have on my desk now tentative requisitions for \$2,300,000 worth of property that is going to be needed in the next year by the board.

Mr. KINCHELOE. And if this property was sold it would bring about 20 cents on the dollar?

Mr. LAMKIN. I imagine so.

Mr. KINCHELOE. And assuming that you want \$2,500,000 worth of material, if the necessary authority can be given to use the property of the Government it would result in a saving of \$2,000,000.

Mr. LAMKIN. I should say so.

The CHAIRMAN. What property?

Mr. LAMKIN. Machine tools, equipment, etc. More than a year and a half ago Mr. Treadway, of Massachusetts, on the floor of the House, when in Committee of the Whole, offered an amendment to an appropriation bill providing that the Secretary of War should have authority to transfer to the Federal Board such equipment as was necessary for us to carry on our work. That was limited by an amendment on the floor of the House to the amount of \$250,000 only, which we had the War Department transfer to us. Since that time we have had the matter before the Military Affairs Committees of both the Senate and the House.

The CHAIRMAN. If this bill authorized the transfer of the property to your board, would that give the desired authority?

Mr. LAMKIN. Yes, sir; I want to say to you, frankly, that so far as this bill is concerned, the Federal Board does not want this property for these reasons: In the first place, it is inaccessible and I think its being inaccessible has some merit; and in the second place, it would cost us too much to maintain it for the number of men we could put there and train.

Mr. JACOWAY. You are referring to the physical ground and not to the equipment.

Mr. LAMKIN. There is nothing here but the physical ground. There is nothing in this Mount Weather proposition that we could equip. To answer the question further, may I go one step further and make myself plain. If the Government wants to transfer this property to a private concern with whom we can make a contract to pay a reasonable amount for the training of these men, and the private concern will raise enough funds to make up the difference between the cost of training the men and what the Government could reasonably pay for training the men, we are willing to make that kind of contract with them, but we feel that so far as the Government itself is concerned, it would cost too much money for the Government to operate it.

The CHAIRMAN. Have we not an investment there already of \$209,527.70.

Mr. LAMKIN. All right.

The CHAIRMAN. And that property ought to be utilized by the Government or some disposition made of it in some way.

Mr. GERNERD. Provided, Mr. Chairman, the cost of maintenance is not way out of proportion.

Mr. JONES. I notice the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of Agriculture, have recommended the sale of this property.

Mr. LAMKIN. We can not buy it.

Mr. ASWELL. You can not use the buildings as they are?

Mr. PURNELL. Mr. Lamkin, what do you say as to the general policy that this would sanction of dividing responsibility with your department for the training of these men.

Mr. LAMKIN. I will say in reply to that question, I think there would be no divided responsibility. We would make a contract with the corporation. As far as this particular question is concerned, it seems to me the question hinges on whether or not the Congress wants to turn over to the Soldiers' Institute Government-owned property. Looking at it from the viewpoint of the Federal Board, we would make a contract with that Soldiers' Institute, the same as we would make a contract with Columbia University, for the training of certain men in certain lines of work and if they did not train the men in those lines of work for the tuition which we would pay—and I am frank to say, we would not be willing to pay more than \$30 or \$35 a month tuition—if they could not train the men for the tuition we would pay, then we would withdraw our men from the institute.

Mr. JONES. You would want the concern with which you made the contract to be financially responsible?

Mr. LAMKIN. We certainly would want them to be financially responsible and would not make a contract with them unless they were financially responsible.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Let us see about the practicability of this particular case. I understood the gentleman who just left the witness stand, in answer to Mr. McLaughlin's questions, to say that the Soldiers' Institute has no funds to operate this institution at all, and if they have not, of course, you could not make any contract with them.

Mr. LAMKIN. Of course, they would have to show that they were financially responsible before we would make a contract with them.

Mr. ASWELL. I understood the proposition was to train soldiers other than the disabled soldiers. Would the Federal Board pay tuition in those cases?

Mr. LAMKIN. No, sir.

Mr. KINCHELOE. You take no cognizance——

Mr. LAMKIN. We take no cognizance except of the disabled soldiers.

Mr. TEN EYCK. I want to refer back to a previous statement made by you in which I am very much interested relative to the transferring of some of the property of the War Department to your bureau for the benefit of training the soldiers. I can realize perhaps why they may not have voted favorably upon Mr. Treadway's bill, because it was turning over the rights of Congress to the War Department, to be unlimited in what they turned over to you; but I do feel

that if you made up a list of the things that you knew are in the War Department that they intended to sell later, which information you can get from them in connection with what they have on hand, and a bill of that kind was introduced in Congress—I feel you can get a Congressman to do that because I can assure you that I will introduce such a bill for you with a list of the things you want—and then we will see whether the Committee on Military Affairs will report favorably on it.

Mr. LAMKIN. I mean to make no criticism of Congress, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. TEN EYCK. It is not a question of criticism, it is simply a question of going about the thing in the manner that will be for the best interests of the Government and of the soldiers in order to get these things which are now held by the War Department, and which they do not need.

Mr. LAMKIN. The Military Affairs Committee did make a favorable report on the bill about two days before the close of the last session of Congress. I may answer Mr. Ten Eyck in this way, Mr. Chairman, if you can get a list of the material they have on hand from the War Department you can do better than the Federal Board.

Mr. KINCHELOW. That is the question which I just started to ask you.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; Congress passed two resolutions authorizing the War Department to dispose of the automobiles and they are still over there rusting and going to pieces.

Mr. KINCHELOW. Did you ever have this matter up with the outgoing Secretary of War and the incoming Secretary of War?

Mr. LAMKIN. We have had it up with both of them.

Mr. KINCHELOW. Will you tell me why the Secretary of War, whether he is a Democrat or a Republican, as soon as he gets in the department down there becomes hypnotized and becomes a stickler for form? It seems to me that in some way Congress has not the power to make those gentlemen perform.

Mr. LAMKIN. Secretary Baker said to us that he would refer it to his legal adviser, and the legal opinion was that he had no authority to turn it over to us. I am frank to say I have not talked to Secretary Weeks, but it has been taken up by the Cabinet members on our board with the Secretary of War.

Mr. KINCHELOW. The point I am making is that perhaps they have not now an act of Congress authorizing it, but if the Secretary of War, whether he be a Democrat or a Republican, wants to save money to the taxpayers of this country, they could get busy and have it done immediately. I am not criticizing the present Secretary of War any more than I am criticizing the former Secretary. It seems to me they get hypnotized as soon as they get in there by the General Staff and others down there.

Mr. LAMKIN. I would like to say one thing more along this line, Mr. Chairman. We have established schools similar to the one suggested here. We have one at Pocono Pines, Pa. We had to go and lease private property there. We are putting one at San Antonio. We are leasing the Peacock Military Academy down there; we have one at Waynesville, and we have one at Pascagoula, Miss., and we are opening up one at Fort Jefferson, N. Y.

Mr. JACOWAY. Have you not one in Arkansas?

Mr. LAMKIN. No, sir. Those institutions are for men, as Mr. Bush-Brown has said to you, who have come out of the service not well enough yet to go home and yet sick enough to remain in the hospital. Those men can not be kept in homes and they ought not to be kept in homes.

The CHAIRMAN. Could you not acquire additional real estate at Mount Weather and make a suitable plant out of it? It is an ideal spot.

Mr. LAMKIN. There is no question about its being an ideal spot.

Mr. ASWELL. Could you acquire the additional property?

Mr. LAMKIN. I am told the additional property is there, but as far as I am concerned I do not want to be given the authority for building buildings, and that is what you would have to do.

The CHAIRMAN. You would have a good many buildings there to start with and they are excellent buildings.

Mr. LAMKIN. We have canvassed that very carefully, Mr. Chairman. There are 40 rooms there at the present time. Your doctor, your nurse, your teachers, and cooks will require 15 of those rooms, and then you will have 25 rooms and with two boys to a room that would mean a capacity for about 50.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Then if you took over that plant, would you not be splitting authority with this organization provided under the Sweet bill which is now pending in the House?

Mr. LAMKIN. If the Sweet bill goes through, it takes over the Rehabilitation Division and puts all of our contracts, etc., right into the Veterans' Bureau. So, so far as the Sweet bill is concerned, I think it does not affect this question, because anything we do is taken over by the new Veterans' Bureau.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Of course, when you say "we," that would mean under the purview of the Sweet bill, provided it became a law?

Mr. LAMKIN. Yes. I think we could make a contract with these people to give them the training.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your objection to taking the property over? You say it is inaccessible?

Mr. LAMKIN. I think it would cost the Government too much money to take it over and maintain it as a school. We have tried to establish these schools, and we find that a less unit than 300 men can not be handled profitably; that is, can not be handled with a reasonable overhead cost.

The CHAIRMAN. But you would have a good start there for a school with a capacity of 300?

Mr. LAMKIN. No, Mr. Chairman, because you can not take care of, according to the Surgeon General, more than 120 men here and out of that 120 come your nurses and your doctors and your teachers and your servants who are necessary to keep up the place.

The CHAIRMAN. But there are a number of buildings that could be remodeled and made use of.

Mr. TINCER. The War Department has out in our State, where we have one of these schools, one of the finest buildings in the country, and that place is vacant and there would be plenty of room there. They have room for all the disabled soldiers in the United States in one camp out there that they will have to abandon, so it seems to me it would be foolish to go down here and buy additional land and put up additional buildings.

MR. JACOWAY. Is it your idea, Mr. Lamkin, that, comparatively speaking, this place is inaccessible, and that for the same money you can go to other places that would be more accessible and cheaper to operate?

MR. LAMKIN. I think so.

MR. TEN EyCK. Your idea is that this being a private institution a part of the overhead will be taken care of by donations?

MR. LAMKIN. Yes; by donations to the private institution. We do not care where they get the money. For instance, we are paying the David Rankin School for Commercial Trades in St. Louis \$15 per month per man tuition. It costs the David Rankin School for Commercial Trades \$30 per month per man to train those boys. They are getting the difference out of their endowment fund. If they want to do it, that is well and good.

MR. ASWELL. Is this corporation supposed to make a profit out of this transaction?

MR. LAMKIN. I think not.

MR. BUSH-BROWN. The chairman has given me permission to ask you a question, Mr. Lamkin. Inasmuch as it is now the summer season, there is no reason why additional accommodations could not be provided there in the way of tents during the summer season, during which time new buildings could be put up to increase the capacity of the place by the time they would be needed as buildings in the autumn.

MR. LAMKIN. Our experience in regard to building, Mr. Chairman, would not justify us in believing that you can build buildings on top of the Blue Ridge Mountains that will be habitable in the winter time between now and the time they would have to be built and heated. We are perfectly willing to make a contract with the institution if they will show us that they have a suitable place and we can make a contract with them on reasonable terms.

MR. KINCHELOE. Where would you get the money to build those buildings with?

MR. LAMKIN. We have no authority to build and you would have to give us that authority.

MR. BUSH-BROWN. We propose to buy adjacent property and put up buildings there, and on the bottoms there is fine farm land of about 700 acres, part of which is in timber. That timber can be put into a sawmill right away and put into the buildings right there without going to market for your resources. The place is also filled with rock.

MR. ASWELL. How much will that 700 acres of land cost?

MR. BUSH-BROWN. About \$60 an acre.

MR. JACOWAY. Are you going into the sawmill business?

MR. BUSH-BROWN. So far as our needs require.

MR. JACOWAY. Let me advise you to keep out of it.

MR. BUSH-BROWN (continuing). In order to give employment to the soldiers.

THE CHAIRMAN. Are you through, Mr. Lamkin.

MR. LAMKIN. Yes; I was through, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. We will hear from Mr. Clark, of the Department of Agriculture.

STATEMENT OF MR. C. C. CLARK, OF THE UNITED STATES WEATHER BUREAU.

The CHAIRMAN. Give your name and occupation.

Mr. CLARK. Mr. C. C. Clark, assistant chief of the United States Weather Bureau. The department has directed me to come before you at your request, in the absence of Prof. Marvin, who is Chief of the Weather Bureau, and absent on official business to-day. I will be pleased to give any statement and to answer questions giving the facts as to Mount Weather, at the same time without even seemingly being opposed to any legislation or assistance in behalf of our soldiers.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Is your bureau operating that institution now as a weather bureau?

Mr. CLARK. No, sir; we have discontinued the use of Mount Weather as an active station, and we are now the Government trustee and custodian of the Mount Weather tract, buildings, and property.

Mr. KINCHELOE. It was purchased originally for what purpose?

Mr. CLARK. The land was purchased in 1902 and buildings constructed later for the purpose of establishing an aerological and meteorological observatory and laboratory for the study of the upper air and solar radiation and magnetic observations.

"Mount Weather" (Virginia) is the name given a group of buildings erected by the Weather Bureau for special aerial and research work on top of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Loudoun and Clarke Counties, about 20 miles south of Harpers Ferry and 47 miles in a direct line west of Washington. It is 6 miles south of Bluemont, Va., the nearest railroad station and present terminus of the Washington & Old Dominion (suburban electric) Railroad line. The grounds have an area of 84.81 acres; are roughly square in outline, lying on both sides of the ridge, the top of which is 1,725 feet above sea level.

It overlooks to the west the entire Shenandoah Valley from Strasburg to Harpers Ferry, and to the east all that portion of Piedmont-Virginia Valley between the Blue Ridge and the Bull Run Mountains.

The grounds are inclosed by a stone wall and wire fence. [Read-
ing:]

BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Administration and observatory building: Erected 1909; brick, tile and concrete; three stories and cellar; 18 rooms.

Machine shop and balloon shed: Erected 1904; two-story frame and stone building; eight rooms.

Central heating and power plant: Erected 1909; one-story stone building; boilers and electrical equipment sufficient for supplying heat, light, and power for the entire plant.

"Absolute" and "variation" buildings (for terrestrial-magnetic work): Erected 1906; two, one-story, frame buildings, used in connection with investigations in terrestrial magnetism; cellar under each. The walls are about 4 feet thick of double construction packed with sawdust to secure constant temperature conditions within.

Stables: One two-story frame and stone stable, and one two-story frame stable.

Farm cottage for dwelling purposes: Erected 1905; a two-story frame building; 9 rooms.

Physical laboratory: Erected 1909; three-story stone building; 16 rooms.

Cottage for dwelling: Erected 1909; three-story frame building; 15 rooms.

Reel house and kite shelter: A circular, frame building, 9 feet in diameter.

A 108-foot tubular well supplies all buildings with good water from an elevated water tank having a capacity of 14,000 gallons, filled from pump operated by an electric motor.

All the buildings have been erected, and improvements made, in the best and most substantial manner possible, and the property as it now stands represents an actual cost value to the Government of about \$200,000.

Mr. THOMPSON. How many acres?

Mr. CLARK. There are 84.81 acres.

Mr. THOMPSON. What was the cost?

Mr. CLARK. The total cost of the land was about \$2,513.

Mr. KINCHELOE. How long did your bureau operate there?

Mr. CLARK. We operated there until 1912, when the principal activities were withdrawn and located more economically and efficiently elsewhere.

Mr. THOMPSON. You made some improvements on the land?

Mr. CLARK. We built, I think, eight buildings on the land and operated them as observatory and administration buildings, heating plant, and other smaller structures. We are now caring for them with custodians and maintaining and protecting them as best we can with the limited funds at our disposal. This is a map just drafted showing the contour lines and the location of the building.

Mr. THOMPSON. What was the cost of those buildings?

Mr. CLARK. \$209,000, approximately, was the original cost of the land and improvements.

Mr. KINCHELOE. Are they leased or abandoned or are you receiving any revenue from them?

Mr. CLARK. They are not now occupied or being used. We are now maintaining them and caring for them as custodian, to preserve them as Government property. We have two custodians there.

Mr. KINCHELOE. But they are not occupied?

Mr. CLARK. They are unoccupied.

Mr. KINCHELOE. And there is no financial revenue accruing to the Government?

Mr. CLARK. No, sir. We transferred our activities and upper-air observations from there several years ago. Very valuable and important observations were obtained at Mount Weather in that pioneer work in aerological observations in this country, and fortunately those data were available during the war in aid of the Air Service and of the Army in their ballistic work in connection with firing long-range guns. We transferred our work from Mount Weather because of the enormous relative expense of operating this plant on the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, inaccessible and expensive for the transportation of supplies, goods, and coal over 6 miles of mountain road. Similar work was instituted at other observatories and stations throughout the country where very valuable aerological work is now being maintained, viz, Due West, S. C.; Royal Center, Ind.; Ellendale, N. Dak.; Drexel, Nebr.; Broken Arrow, Okla.; and Groesbeck, Tex. Mount Weather has only three substantial buildings, appropriate for housing men; an administration building with 18 rooms and 7 baths, a three-story brick and concrete structure, fireproof; a physical laboratory building with 16 rooms, built of stone, secured from the tract; a frame

cottage dwelling, a substantial and well-located building. Those three buildings, as Mr. Lamkin has said, contain about 50 rooms. The other buildings are small buildings such as a stable, a machine shop and balloon shed, a central heating plant, and small structures which could not be used to house patients or soldiers.

Mount Weather was found to be not best suited for aerial investigations, because its location is not favorably related to the ordinary tracks of storms, because it is so near the seashore, and because it is relatively isolated and inaccessible. Everything in the way of fuel and supplies of all kinds must be hauled over the rough mountain road, involving undesirable and unnecessary cost of maintenance.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you a list of the buildings and the cost of them that you can insert in the record?

Mr. CLARK. Yes, sir; such data are included in a report made by the Secretary of Agriculture several years ago and I will insert that in my statement.

(The statement referred to follows.)

DECEMBER 9, 1914.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: Pursuant to the instructions contained in the act of Congress approved June 24, 1914 (Public No. 122, 63d Cong., H. R. 13679), entitled, "An act making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915," viz:

* * * * *

"The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to report to Congress at its next session the present condition and value of the tract of land consisting of eighty-four and eighty-one one-hundredths acres of land, more or less, known as Mount Weather, and located in the counties of Loudoun and Clarke, in the State of Virginia, the original cost of said land, together with the cost of the improvements thereon and the present value of such improvements, the amount which in his opinion can be realized from the sale of said real property, including buildings and other improvements, at private sale, and whether in his opinion it would be most advantageous to sell the same at public or at private sale, and to advise Congress as to whether it would be better for the Government to sell said property or to lease it. And the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, in his discretion, to discontinue the use of Mount Weather as a weather station and if necessary place a keeper in charge thereof for its protection and care, the expenses thereof to be paid out of the appropriation made herein for necessary expenses of the Weather Bureau outside of the city of Washington."

* * * * *

I have the honor to report, as follows:

Description of property.—Mount Weather (Virginia) is the name given a group of buildings erected by the Weather Bureau for special aerial and research work on top of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Loudoun and Clarke Counties, about 20 miles south of Harpers Ferry and 47 miles in a direct line west of Washington. It is 6 miles south of Bluemont, Va., the nearest railroad station and present terminus of the Washington & Old Dominion (suburban electric) Railroad line. The grounds have an area of 84.81 acres; are roughly square in outline, lying on both sides of the ridge, the top of which is 1,725 feet above sea level, and about 1,200 feet above the valleys on either side.

It overlooks to the west the entire Shenandoah Valley from Strasburg to Harpers Ferry, and to the east all that portion of Piedmont-Virginia Valley between the Blue Ridge and the Bull Run Mountains.

Original cost to the Government.

Land, first purchase of 67.25 acres (September, 1902).....	\$1, 863. 15
Land, second purchase of 17.56 acres (September, 1903).....	650. 00
Total cost of land.....	2, 513. 15

Buildings and improvements.

Administration and observatory building, erected 1909; brick, tile, and concrete; three stories and cellar; 18 rooms; cost.....	\$49,898.41
Machine shop and balloon shed, erected 1904; two-story frame and stone building; 8 rooms; cost.....	8,817.00
Central heating and power plant, erected 1909; one-story stone building; boilers and electrical equipment sufficient for supplying heat, light, and power for the entire plant; cost.....	11,964.74
Absolute building and variation building (for terrestrial-magnetic work), erected 1906; 2 one-story frame buildings, used in connection with investigations in terrestrial magnetism; cellar under each; the walls are about 4 feet thick, of double construction, packed with sawdust to secure constant temperature conditions within; cost.....	15,904.55
Stables: 1 two-story frame and stone stable and 1 two-story frame stable; cost.....	2,800.00
Farm cottage for dwelling purposes, remodeled 1905; a two-story frame building; 9 rooms; cost.....	1,300.00
Physical laboratory, erected 1909; three-story stone building; 16 rooms; cost.....	37,521.51
Cottage for dwelling, erected 1909; three-story frame building; 15 rooms; cost.....	11,246.34
Reel house and kite shelter; a circular frame building, 9 feet in diameter; cost.....	1,738.69
Repairs and permanent improvements.....	37,823.31
Administration building destroyed by fire; cost.....	28,000.00

Total cost to the Government..... 209,527.70

Or, omitting fire losses (\$28,000), original cost remains..... 181,527.70

Most of the buildings are new, or have been maintained in thorough condition of repair. The present valuation is, however, placed at 60 per cent of original cost, or approximately \$108,000. And, including \$4,250 for the grounds, gives a total of \$112,000.

PRESENT CONDITION AND VALUE.

Grounds.—Condition, as a whole, excellent. More than one-half the tract is rocky, covered with trees and shrubs, and not suitable for any agricultural purposes except grazing; remainder cleared and about one-half acre is utilized for growing garden truck, etc. Ground improvements consist of some clearing of trees and underbrush; laying out and constructing necessary roads and driveways. Latter, about the upper part of the grounds, have been built of crushed stone in good substantial manner, and connect with the public highway, county road, from Bluemont.

Entire tract well inclosed, partly by a stone-wall fence and remainder by wire fencing.

Land values.—Improved lands between Mount Weather and Bluemont have been sold within the past year or so at prices of from \$40 per acre, for orchard purposes, to \$100 per acre, for summer residence sites, location and outlook adding considerably to values for residence sites.

The Weather Bureau tract is well situated for residential purposes, and is considered by those having a knowledge of local real estate values to be worth \$50 per acre, not including, of course, the value of the improvements.

The special scientific investigations heretofore conducted at Mount Weather have been transferred to the new station established near Omaha, Nebr., and to Washington; and most of the scientific instruments and apparatus have now been removed.

The chief obstacle to our continued use of the property is the present poor condition of the road from Bluemont, affording access thereto. Arrangements have been made, however, to continue all needful meteorological observations at Mount Weather, including preservation and care of buildings and grounds, at a cost of less than \$2,000 per annum.

The buildings and grounds have been inspected by officials of other bureaus of this department and are not found suitable for their use in any way.

The buildings are of good, durable construction, are fairly well arranged, and could be adapted for use as a summer hotel or country club, a sanitarium, or possibly for school purposes.

Whether this property should be sold at private or public sale is, we think, a question that should be left to the judgment of Congress, with a recommendation that the present valuation of the property be set at \$112,000.

Based on personal observation of the Chief of the Weather Bureau extending over the entire period back to several months before the date of purchase, it is believed the location of this property is such that neither the buildings nor grounds could be leased to advantage in any way, either as a whole or in part, and such action is not recommended.

It is also impracticable to dispose of the property to advantage at forced sale at this time, and it is recommended it be held for sale later when a reasonable price may possibly be had.

Respectfully submitted.

D. F. HOUSTON, *Secretary.*

The CHAIRMAN: I also have two communications here from the Treasury Department on the subject which, without objection, will be inserted at this point.

(Said communications follow:)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 8, 1921.

Hon. G. H. HAUGEN,
*Chairman Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 6, relative to a hearing on Friday, June 10, on H. R. 5901, and in which you have expressed the desire that a representative of this bureau attend the hearing.

Inasmuch as the entire bill pertains to education and the vocational rehabilitation of disabled soldiers, sailors, and marines, veterans of the World War, this matter should properly be discussed before your committee by the Director of the Federal Board for Vocational Education. I therefore beg to make the suggestion to you. If, however, there is any information which a representative of this bureau can supply your committee, upon notifying me such person will be present at the hearing.

Very truly, yours,

C. R. FORBES, *Director.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,
Washington.

Hon. G. N. HAUGEN,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. HAUGEN: It is desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, inclosing copy of H. R. 5901, concerning the acquirement of the property in Virginia known as Mount Weather for use in the care of sick and disabled discharged soldiers.

Of course, should you so desire it, a representative of this service would be glad to attend the hearing on the 10th instant on this bill. It is presumed that this office will be notified further concerning the hour of such hearing.

It may be of interest in this connection to advise that this property has been inspected more than once by the Public Health Service as to its possibilities for use in the care of discharged disabled ex-service men and has invariably been reported as unsuitable for that purpose, so far as the Public Health Service is concerned.

It seems wise to say also that, since, under the law, the hospitalization of discharged disabled ex-service men and women is a responsibility placed upon the Director of the War Risk Insurance Bureau, it would be eminently proper for some representative of that bureau to pass judgment on the matter rather than the Public Health Service. The Public Health Service, under existing arrangements, is an agency through which the Director of the War Risk Insurance Bureau obtains medical care and treatment for his beneficiaries, and all arrangements for the care of discharged ex-service men and women must, in accordance with the law, receive the general approval of the War Risk Insurance Bureau.

For the Surgeon General.

Respectfully,

J. D. LONG,
Surgeon, Executive Officer.

The CHAIRMAN. What do you have to say about this transfer?

Mr. CLARK. It is submitted that the most desirable plan for the disposition of Mount Weather at this time would be for the Congress to pass necessary legislation authorizing its sale, according to the recommendation of the commission composed of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Treasury, War, and Navy, made to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, December 28, 1920.

This land was bought and the buildings erected by the United States Government, which owns and holds them. The Weather Bureau of the Department of Agriculture is custodian and responsible for the plant and those buildings. We must care for them and we must maintain them and we are doing that, but it is not believed desirable to transfer the use and custody of this reservation to any institution unless same be responsible for its maintenance and care.

The CHAIRMAN. This matter has been up for a number of years, and you have been trying to dispose of this property, have you not?

Mr. CLARK. We believe the Government should properly dispose of that land now by sale. It can not be made available or made use of by any of the Government departments. The departmental commission of the four Secretaries made a very exhaustive inquiry as to its possible use and addressed every executive department, including St. Elizabeth's and the local health office and the Public Health Service, who could possibly utilize that establishment—

The CHAIRMAN. Have you a copy of that report with you?

Mr. CLARK. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you supply that report for the record?

Mr. CLARK. Yes, sir; and I will state in addition that the Department of Agriculture before that report used every possible effort to utilize this reservation in connection with its Bureau of Plant Industry, and other branches of the Department of Agriculture, and it was found inadvisable and uneconomical to transfer any of its work to Mount Weather, and utilize it in connection with activities of the Department.

(The report referred to follows:)

DECEMBER 28, 1920.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: The following provision appears in the act making appropriations for the Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921 (Public, No. 234, 66th Cong.):

"A commission composed of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy is hereby appointed to make an examination of the premises known as Mount Weather, in the counties of Loudoun and Clarke, in the State of Virginia, and comprising eighty-four and eighty-one one-hundredths acres of land, more or less, together with the buildings and other improvements thereon, including laboratories, cottages, sheds, stables, shops, heating and power plants, kite shelter, and other buildings, of whatever nature, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto belonging, and to report to Congress on the first day of the next session thereof whether said premises can be suitably used as a sanitarium or as a home for disabled soldiers, sailors, or marines, or can be profitably utilized in any other way in connection with any other governmental function, and to make such recommendation in the premises as in the judgment of the commission may be deemed to be the best interest of the Government."

In accordance with this provision, the commission has the honor to submit the following report:

It does not seem feasible to maintain the Mount Weather Station as a home for disabled soldiers, sailors, or marines. The objection to its use for this purpose is its

isolation and inaccessibility, with consequent heavy fixed charges for maintenance and operation. After necessary alterations and repairs have been made, not more than 120 patients could be accommodated, and the overhead expenditures per patient therefore would compare very unfavorably with like expenses for the operation of other similar governmental institutions. It would be exceedingly difficult to secure and retain a competent medical and nursing personnel, because of the isolated location of the station, and the transportation of supplies, especially during the winter months, would involve a very heavy expense. Even if the facilities of the station were extended to provide for the accommodation of a larger number of patients, it would be necessary immediately to expend a considerable sum for the construction of additional buildings, the enlargement of the water supply, and other improvements, and the objectionable features of isolation, inaccessibility, and heavy operating cost would still remain.

With the view of determining whether the property could be used for any other governmental purpose, the matter was brought to the attention of the following: The Astrophysical Observatory, Smithsonian Institution; Coast and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce; Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce; Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior; St. Elizabeths Hospital; health department, District of Columbia.

The agencies have reported to the commission either that the station is not needed by them or that it can not be advantageously utilized in connection with their activities; and, after thorough consideration, it does not seem feasible or desirable to make use of the station in the prosecution of any feature of the work of the Department of Agriculture. During the years from 1904 to 1914, while the station was used by the Weather Bureau, meteorological observations and investigations, especially with reference to the exploration of the upper air, were conducted there. The results have been published in the bulletin of the Mount Weather Observatory, and it is no longer advantageous to prosecute meteorological investigations at Mount Weather.

As the investigation of the commission has failed to develop a profitable use of the station by the Government it is recommended that the property be sold at public auction. The natural beauty of the location, the delightful climate during the summer months, and its comparative proximity to Washington, should make it peculiarly suitable for a resort for tourists or boarders, and it may be possible to dispose of it for this purpose.

It is suggested that the following provision be inserted in the Agricultural appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1922:

"That the Secretary of Agriculture be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to sell to the highest bidder, at public or private sale, the premises known as Mount Weather, in the counties of Loudoun and Clarke, in the State of Virginia, and comprising eighty-four and eighty-one one-hundredths acres of land, more or less, together with the buildings and other improvements thereon, including laboratories, cottages, sheds, stables, shops, heating and power plant, kite shelter, and other buildings of whatever nature, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto belonging, at such time, in such manner, and upon such terms as he may deem for the best interests of the United States; to convey such property to the purchaser thereof for the usual quitclaim deed, and to deposit the proceeds of such sale in the Treasury of the United States as a miscellaneous receipt after deducting the expenses incident to such sale; but the Secretary of Agriculture shall reserve the right to reject any and all bids if it is in the public interest to do so, and to re-advertise the property under conditions provided herein as often as may be necessary to accomplish sale."

Respectfully submitted.

D. F. HOUSTON,
Secretary of the Treasury,
NEWTON D. BAKER,
Secretary of War.
JOSEPHUS DANIELS,
Secretary of the Navy,
E. T. MEREDITH,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Commission.

The CHAIRMAN. What does the department have to say about this suggestion?

Mr. CLARK. It is believed desirable to authorize its sale. As to this particular bill, H. R. 5901, at first glance it does not appear to contain provisions securing complete protection to the department in

its responsibility for this land and property. It does not supply funds or any provisions for the upkeep and maintenance of the institution to whom it is proposed to transfer it, while it is under their tenancy and occupancy. There is nothing in the bill that obligates the occupants of the building to care for and maintain the property in proper condition. If the Government would be legally safeguarded in its custody of the property—and of course we are willing to do anything that is the desire of Congress—we would have no objection to the transfer of this property to this institute or to any responsible establishment; that is, if those necessary provisions which we have mentioned are added and the departments are entirely safeguarded legally in regard to the custody, the care and the responsibility for Government-owned land, buildings, and property.

The CHAIRMAN. After all, the Government has invested over \$200,000 there, and we ought to know something about the terms under which it is to be turned over, as you suggest; but can this property be made use of by any other department or can it be disposed of and something realized from its sale?

Mr. CLARK. As indicated here, we have made every possible inquiry, not only in our own department but of all the Government departments, and similar inquiries were made by the commission composed of the several Secretaries, and no Government bureau or department can use the plant.

The CHAIRMAN. What effort have you made to sell it?

Mr. CLARK. We have taken no steps toward its sale without authority and consent of Congress first had. We have simply made requests to Congress in our estimates in the agricultural appropriation bill for its sale.

The CHAIRMAN. It has been suggested time after time that you should ascertain whether it is possible to sell it and then report back to Congress.

Mr. CLARK. And we reported and recommended that it be sold.

The CHAIRMAN. But you have not submitted any offers.

Mr. CLARK. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you any to submit now?

Mr. CLARK. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you ever had any?

Mr. CLARK. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Then what effort has been made to dispose of it or to ascertain whether it can be disposed of at a reasonable amount?

Mr. CLARK. No effort has been made by the department to dispose of it without prior authority for its sale being secured from the Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. You do not need any authority to ask for informal offers to ascertain if it could be sold for a reasonable amount. The committee had in mind that the department should make some effort at least to procure offers on this property, and that Congress then would pass on the matter. The committee did not feel that it ought to give the department authority to sell at any price, but that if it had any bids to submit, the committee would give the matter consideration.

Mr. CLARK. I think the legal officers of the Government would require, before advertising and requesting bids, that there should be

some prior act of Congress giving them authority and indicating the willingness and desire of the Congress to sell Government property.

The CHAIRMAN. The business way is to ascertain for what the property can be sold. The department that has the matter in charge could negotiate with parties as to the sale of the property and it seems to me that is what ought to be done. The Government has invested here over \$200,000, and the department ought to take enough interest in the \$200,000 investment to at least ascertain what it can be sold for.

Mr. CLARK. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. This is a matter that has been up for several years and the committee has gone over it time after time.

Mr. CLARK. You would suggest then that informally we make further inquiry as regards a possible purchaser and a possible sale price and present to the committee in definite form the possibility of its sale at some reasonable price?

The CHAIRMAN. It seems to me that would be the proper course to pursue. There is no reason why that \$200,000 worth of property should go to waste, and in addition to that you are put to the expense of maintaining it. I understand you employ people there to take care of it.

Mr. CLARK. Necessarily we have two custodians there at a cost of about \$1,400 a year.

The CHAIRMAN. You have more than one custodian?

Mr. CLARK. We have two; one at \$720 and one at \$600, or a total of about \$1,400, as of course we must protect and maintain it. Heating of building is expensive; it does not require it now, but at the time we were running the plant it took 300 tons of coal per year to keep the central heating plant going. Coal, before we closed the plant, cost more to transport from Bluemont to the power plant than it cost to transport from the mines to Bluemont. That is one example of the difficulties and expenses of administering the establishment at that isolated place.

The CHAIRMAN. It is a haul of 6 miles?

Mr. CLARK. It is, up the mountain.

The CHAIRMAN. How much money did you expend for roads there?

Mr. CLARK. As originally purchased, these grounds were wholly unimproved, and as buildings were completed suitable roads and driveways were laid out through the reservation.

When finished, the length of these roads and driveways was approximately 2,775 feet, with an average width of 16 feet. During the construction of Weather Bureau buildings, the bureau purchased a stone crusher, by means of which all the crushed stone required for concrete work and road building was produced at actual cost, the stone being obtained on the reservation.

This crushed stone was distributed over the driveways from time to time, cobblestone gutters prepared along such sections as required drainage, all the work involved being done by the laborers employed for general purposes.

Estimating the cost value of the crushed stone at \$2 per cubic yard, the cost of the driveways as completed (2,775 feet) was about \$5,000.

The only road construction that we made was in the reservation.

The CHAIRMAN. That item does not seem to be included.

Mr. CLARK. I will show what part was allocated for building roads in our reservation.

The CHAIRMAN. That is not included in the \$209,527.70?

Mr. CLARK. No, sir; that is in the maintenance of the grounds. Of course, we could do no building or repair work on the mountain road from our reservation to Bluemont, some 6 miles.

Mr. JACOWAY. What will it cost to build that road?

Mr. CLARK. It will cost considerable to make it available even for Army trucks.

Mr. JACOWAY. Will it cost \$150,000?

Mr. CLARK. It will cost \$15,000 a mile.

The CHAIRMAN. Are we to understand that the department makes no recommendation in this matter?

Mr. CLARK. The department recommends the sale of the Mount Weather reservation, and has no other specific recommendation, except if it is planned to pass this bill, that it should be amended so as to safeguard the Government in connection with the point that I mentioned as to the disposal of Government property; also, the department should be relieved of all the responsibility of the expense of maintaining it after it is transferred.

Mr. JACOWAY. What amount of permanent buildings would it require to carry out the program?

Mr. CLARK. Another quarter of a million dollars would be required to duplicate the three permanent buildings in order to provide for a unit of 300 men as indicated by the Director of the Federal Board of Vocational Education.

Mr. JACOWAY. And how much for roads?

Mr. CLARK. Of course, we can not build the road outside of the Government reservation, but it would take——

Mr. JACOWAY (interposing). \$120,000?

Mr. CLARK. At least \$100,000. Of course, that would have to be built by the State.

The CHAIRMAN. We are much obliged to you.

STATEMENT OF MRS. L. H. BOGGS.

Mrs. BOGGS. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, during the war I worked in hospitals and in camps and since the war to some extent. I find many boys in the hospitals who are worn out and weary of sitting day by day looking at each other with nothing to do. They want employment. They want to get away from the hospitals and have a touch of human life. Toward the close of the war, in talking with the boys, I promised them I would make an effort to find a place for them where they could be trained, and Mount Weather appealed to me after seeing the place. As long as it belongs to the Government it seems to me that these people should use it and save the Government that much. So, Mr. Bush-Brown and myself have been working on the proposition for some time with a view to having these boys there and teaching them agriculture and horticulture, educating them, those who are not educated. There are a number who can not read or write. Of course, they would have to be trained from the beginning.

A number of these boys in the hospitals in time can do things when they are taught, along the lines that we have taught them,

but if they remain in the hospitals indefinitely they become a charge upon the Government and they have no incentive to do anything, and really in time the Government will be overcrowded with sick men and men who have learned to be absolutely idle and an expense to the Government to take care of them. If we take them in time we can train them to do things to make them in a way partly, if not wholly, self-supporting. These boys who are discharged from the hospitals and are considered well, a number of them can not go out and do heavy work and yet they have not been trained to do anything. Through this institution we had hoped to train these young men and fit them to be able to make their living and not be a public charge all the rest of their lives.

Take the little naval hospital you will find those boys sitting there on the lawn—perhaps you have seen them as you have driven by, tired and weary. A number of them have said to me, "Please take us away from here, where we can have something to do. We are tired of looking at each other with our hands folded day after day." Before they went into the war and even after they went into the war they were employed all the time. It makes it very hard for them and they really develop mental unfitness when they live that way.

Mount Weather belongs to the Government and it seems that we ought to be able to use it in connection with the Vocational Board, the War Risk Insurance Bureau, and the Public Health Department. It seems that none of these departments so far has been willing to take it over entirely. Mr. Bush-Brown is the one who has never seemed to weary about it. We have thought that the best thing to do was to bring these boys there and open a school and train them and also, during the summer months, we might take up boys who were not able to do anything and give them a summer outing, which would make them very much more contented and happier when they were returned in the winter to the hospitals—those perfectly helpless and unable to do anything. Of course, we could not handle the insane there, but those who are nervous from shell shock. I introduced work in the naval hospital, making cord hammocks and things of that kind. I found that it was perfectly wonderful. I introduced music. From there it was taken over to St. Elizabeths. Dr. Harmon said that in the psychopathic wards music seemed to wake them up and that then work finished it, that a number of boys in the psychopathic wards were absolutely restored, first, by music and then by work.

The CHAIRMAN. Could you care for the tubercular patients there?

Mrs. BOGGS. Of course, they would have to be segregated; they could not be with the others. It would not be advisable to put them in the same building.

The CHAIRMAN. Have we any tuberculosis hospital in the vicinity of Washington?

Mrs. BOGGS. Yes, I think so. There are some kept at Mount Alto Inn, over on Wisconsin Avenue.

The CHAIRMAN. This would seem to be an ideal place?

Mrs. BOGGS. A marvelous situation for tuberculosis. It is a beautiful country with the Piedmont Valley on one side and the Shenandoah Valley on the other side. It would probably be inaccessible in the winter, when the roads are bad; but if we made up our minds to run it we would find some way to get over the roads. If

you can get them up there and get them established and interested in the place as their home, not as a hospital, just a touch of home with outdoor sports and indoor sports, it will be very beneficial. Of course, in time we must have homes for the soldiers absolutely disabled from age and from the infirmities of war; we will have to establish homes for them in time. If we should remove this school to a more accessible place that would make an ideal home for nervous as well as for tubercular patients. As long as it belongs to the Government and the Agricultural Department is spending some money on it, it appeals to me that we might use it for training the soldiers.

Mr. JACOWAY. Do you feel that it would be a good place for tubercular patients?

Mrs. BOGGS. Marvelous.

Mr. JACOWAY. What is the altitude?

Mrs. BOGGS. Twelve hundred feet above the sea. The view is the most magnificent I have ever seen anywhere in Virginia.

Mr. JACOWAY. Is the air light?

Mrs. BOGGS. It is perfectly fine when you get there. You feel that you want to stay forever. The first inclination, after you have been there half a day, is that you want to go to sleep.

The CHAIRMAN. It is 1,725 feet above the sea level?

Mrs. BOGGS. I understand that it is 1,200 feet above the valley on either side.

Mr. CLARKE. It is 1,750 feet. It is 1,200 feet from the floor of the valley.

Mrs. BOGGS. Another thing, Mr. Chairman. We must be in touch and sympathy with the Government and the Government with us. We have to have funds to run this place. I think when it is established the boys of the country at large will feel that the Government will take care of them. It has been perfectly wonderful. We have never asked these gentlemen on the Hill to do for the boys that they have not been willing. I feel that we can get established there with a certain amount of money. The heating and lighting plant and the laundry will have to be done over and fixed. There will be quite a little expenditure on that, and quite a little expenditure on the building, repairing of the leaks in the roof, and things of that kind. I have been over the whole thing and know what has to be done. My idea, and I do not talk for all the others, was to ask for a certain amount of money from the Government to make all these necessary repairs and to put us on a footing to start. Then these memorial funds from the organizations who want to help us will come in and we will have a fund. The idea was to have a fund and to continue this school, but we can not run it at \$35 a head per man from the Vocational Board; with only that money we could not repair and run that institution as it should be run; it would be absolutely impossible. What we really should have from the start is not only the property but a certain appropriation from the Government and to work in cooperation with them. Of course, I am confident that these gentlemen on the Hill—they have done so far everything that they have been asked to do for the boys—when they give the fund, I know that it will continue. So far, in a way, I have been at great expense myself, willingly. I know that Mr. Bush-Brown has done a great deal and has had to spend a good deal of his own personal funds. There has never been a complaint. He has been willing and wonderful, and

long ago I should have been compelled to drop the matter except for his support. He has kept going all along.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. The inaccessibility can be overcome by building a very fine 2 per cent grade road from Bluemont up there. I have been all over the road and there is no engineering difficulty. We can make a splendid road at a very small expense. That would give employment to the soldiers and would be something wholesome to give them.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you tell us approximately the cost of building the road?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I do not know; it is hard to tell.

Mr. JACOWAY. The department's representative says that it will cost about \$100,000.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. To build a road up there?

Mr. JACOWAY. Yes, sir.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. That might be if they give it out by contract and some man is to make a big profit. We could do it with the rehabilitated soldiers for \$4,000 a mile easily.

The CHAIRMAN. What would you suggest, a hard-surface road?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir; the rock is all there. It is perfectly easy to do it. There are absolutely no engineering difficulties to overcome.

I should like to say for the record that I have a letter from Congressman Moore. He is in the hospital and could not be here to attend this meeting.

The CHAIRMAN. Was it agreeable to Mr. Moore that we should go on with the hearing to-day?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You have his letter to that effect?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir; it is a personal letter.

Mrs. Boggs. I am perfectly willing to give my time to the work for the benefit of the boys. We must have a fund to care for the expenses incurred that can not be paid. There must be a fund right off so that these men employed there can be paid and so that the men there can be paid. First of all, the repairs must be made. Of course, if we get an appropriation from the Government to put this heating plant and all the other things in that would have to be done, we would have to go about it in an absolute business way and get the machinery in running order before we bring the boys there.

The CHAIRMAN. What is your idea about the possibility of raising funds for the institute?

Mrs. Boggs. I think that if we could secure the cooperation of the Government that the American Legion, the Women's Federated Clubs, and the Knights of Columbus would all come to our rescue. I think, perhaps, private individuals will give memorial funds in memory of their own boys who fell.

Mr. JACOWAY. Have you secured assurance of that in any way by letter?

Mrs. Boggs. Yes, sir; I have had quite a number of letters from friends and from different ones interested. I have also had a message from a large banking corporation stating that they will give something because of the losses which the corporation itself has suffered. At the same time, we must be on a firm footing and we must know

where we stand in a financial way before we bring the boys in, because I do not feel that we could assume any responsibility.

The CHAIRMAN. We are very much obliged to you, Mrs. Boggs.

STATEMENT OF MRS. VIRGINIA MONRO.

Mrs. MONRO. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, it seems to be conceded that the most important thing before us is the way our soldiers are being treated. As far as raising funds is concerned, I have been speaking of it to men that did not know that there was any such project, and they have said, "I will not do anything more for China or the Near East or the Far East or anything else; anything further which I do is going to be for the disabled soldiers."

I have also been at the hospitals and have visited the boys. I lectured for the Red Cross during the war, to the people over in Hawaii and other places, how we had learned to do so much rehabilitation for our soldiers. That was the one great thought in my lecture work. It has been distressful that there has been so much unhappiness among the boys. I do feel that if we could do something that would make the boys feel that it was simply an institution that would give them more of the atmosphere of home it would mean everything to them. The psychopathic boys and the shell shocked boys, I have talked with them a number of times. Mrs. Thomas Walsh and I went to New York and we distributed personally eight hundred or a thousand articles to the boys she and I had gotten together, and the boys were very grateful. I think that an institute of this sort would mean everything to many of our boys in getting them started in the right way.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Mr. Bucklew, who is present, has been helping to take care of the disabled soldiers. I should like to introduce him.

STATEMENT OF MR. SAM BUCKLEW.

Mr. BUCKLEW. I think I have talked to the chairman on the subject.

I have been spending all my time since the armistice was signed taking care of disabled soldiers, particularly in the tuberculosis camps.

Mr. JACOWAY. You have done it well.

Mr. BUCKLEW. I did the best I could. I think from what I have heard here and what the representative of the Government has said that there is no place anywhere on the eastern coast more satisfactory for the inactive tubercular patients than that place.

There is one thing that a great many people do not understand and that is a tubercular person as to being contagious or communicable. When a man becomes inactive he is no more communicable to the outside world than you are. You are now, gentlemen, looking at an inactive tubercular. I do not look like a corpse. I do not believe it and I do not feel it. I have had the disease. I have gone through the sweat and I know what it is. There is no more danger in an inactive man coming in contact with you or me than anybody else. So there will be no danger in that respect. You can not take anything up there, for the work for which the institution is intended, except the inactive and arrested cases. The arrested cases are the only ones which you can take up there, and the disease would never

come back on him because the climate, the altitude and the light work assigned to him would tend to prolong life.

The CHAIRMAN. It has seemed to me that that would be an ideal spot.

Mr. BUCKLEW. Yes, sir. I want to say to you that there is not a thing to-day that is attacking our Government more severely than those who are called tuberculars. We have something like 46,000 of them. We have less than 15,000 of them hospitalized to-day.

Mr. JACOWAY. Ex-service men?

Mr. BUCKLEW. Yes, sir. We have between forty and fifty thousand, at most 15,000 have been hospitalized, and 30,000 are walking over the country spreading the disease. That is an unfortunate condition. I have the statistics on that.

Mr. JACOWAY. You have the statistics?

Mr. BUCKLEW. I have the Federal Board's report and the Public Health Service report.

Mr. JACOWAY. What about that being put into the records, is it very voluminous?

Mr. BUCKLEW. No; I think I can get it up for you without very much trouble. It is just a small report. It is a summary of the extent of tuberculosis. I think I can cover it in one sheet of paper.

Mr. JACOWAY. If the chairman has no objection, I think it would be well to place that in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it will be so ordered.

Mr. BUCKLEW. I have it not here, but I will submit it to the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. What is Mr. Moore's desire in this matter, does he want to be heard?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. I do not think so.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you want the hearings to be continued or closed now? Have you any more witnesses?

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. No, sir. Mr. Moore is very much in favor of this proposition.

The CHAIRMAN. I know. He asked to have this hearing.

Mr. BUSH-BROWN. Yes, sir.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I have made a tentative arrangement with the War Department to furnish transportation for the committee and the friends of this organization to go to Mount Weather to inspect the property, and if the chairman or any other member of the committee will apply to the Secretary of War for that transportation it will be furnished at such time and place as they designate.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen, Mr. Sweet, of Iowa, was invited to appear before the committee this morning, but in view of the fact that he is in charge of a bill, he was unable to be present.

(A letter subsequently received from the Secretary of Agriculture in reference to Mount Weather is printed, as follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, June 23, 1921.

HON. GILBERT N. HAUGEN,
*Chairman Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. HAUGEN: Pursuant to recent verbal request upon the officers of the Weather Bureau for an expression from the department on the status of the Mount Weather property, I wish to invite your attention to the report to the Speaker of the

House of Representatives, dated December 28, 1920, of a commission composed of the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, and Secretary of the Navy, recommending that the premises and property known as Mount Weather be sold at public auction; also to hearings before the Committee on Agriculture on June 10, 1921, in connection with H. R. 5901, "To permit the Soldiers' Institute to occupy the Government property known as Mount Weather," etc.

As you will recall, the above-mentioned commission made a thorough canvass of the situation, but was unable to find any branch of the Government which could make profitable use of the Mount Weather property; and its utilization as a home for disabled soldiers, sailors, or marines, for reasons stated in the report, did not seem feasible. It was the unanimous opinion of the commission that Congress should be requested to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell this property, and to this end the following was drafted:

"That the Secretary of Agriculture be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to sell to the highest bidder, at public or private sale, the premises known as Mount Weather, in the counties of Loudoun and Clarke, in the State of Virginia, and comprising eighty-four and eighty-one one-hundredths acres of land, more or less, together with the buildings and other improvements thereon, including laboratories, cottages, sheds, stables, shops, heating and power plant, kite shelter, and other buildings of whatever nature, together with all the rights, easements, and appurtenances thereto belonging, at such time, in such manner, and upon such terms as he may deem for the best interests of the United States; to convey such property to the purchaser thereof by the usual quitclaim deed and to deposit the proceeds of such sale in the Treasury of the United States as a miscellaneous receipt, after deducting the expenses incident to such sale; but the Secretary of Agriculture shall reserve the right to reject any and all bids if it is in the public interest to do so, and to readvertise the property under conditions provided herein as often as may be necessary to accomplish sale."

It is believed that the reservation contained in the foregoing provision, whereby the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to reject any and all bids if found in the public interest to do so, will fully safeguard the Government and prevent the necessity of accepting a price which is not reasonable and proper. The property has served its purpose to this department, and I suggest that consideration be given to the enactment of suitable authority for its disposition, as recommended by the commission above referred to.

Sincerely, yours,

HENRY C. WALLACE, *Secretary.*

(Thereupon the committee adjourned.)

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